

## **State Adolescent Treatment Coordination**

### **Project Fresh Light**

#### **Abstract**

Project Fresh Light will bring new energy, emphasis and effectiveness to the treatment, services and supports received by Wisconsin's adolescents with substance abuse and co-occurring disorders and their families by improving our provider network, integrating service administration, resolving funding and regulatory barriers and improving data management.

First, our State will develop a community of practice that supports and sustains the use of culturally competent, research-supported and outcome-focused adolescent treatment. We will accomplish this through live and distance learning programs, a listserv that supports science to service information dissemination and offers treatment suggestions, individual technical assistance and consultation. We will improve instruments for screening and assessment of substance abuse disorders and create a specialty core training to enhance our provider certification process. The curricula will address gender-and substance-specific treatment, cultural and developmental differences.

Second, the Department of Health and Family Services will create an interdepartmental workgroup of system experts to create solutions to improve our fiscal and regulatory climate in supporting adolescent substance abuse services. Our effort will implement the Comprehensive Community Services (CCS ), a Medicaid benefit for adolescents. CCS provides psycho-social therapeutic services across the lifespan to those with substance abuse and co-occurring disorders.

Third, the Department of Health and Family Services will allocate a full-time state level position to coordinate our efforts to improve service administration and delivery at both the state and county levels. A sustainable infrastructure for adolescent substance abuse services will be built. This position will function in tandem with the integration of the formerly separate bureaus of mental health and substance abuse services. It will link current state efforts on behalf of youth in this target population and their families. Our Governor's State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse, which has a diverse membership, will create a three-year project advisory committee.

Fourth, the Bureau of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and the Office of Justice Assistance will establish an information management and evaluation system to provide reliable evaluation and quality assurance measures for this project.

Our State will begin by improving the screening, assessment and placement tools used by juvenile justice intake workers in a group of 21 counties participating in a program supported by a partnership between the Bureau of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and the Office of Justice Assistance in order to establish a more effective service access pathway. As the project continues we will expand the model to other access points and thus bring a fresh light to one of the most under served populations in our state.